

# Truro Rural District Council.

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT**

**For 1948**

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# Truro Rural District Council

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT YEAR 1948**

### **Public Health Officers**

Medical Officer (part time), Dr. A. R. Fuller, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., is also District Medical Officer (Perranzabuloe District) and Public Vaccinator for Perranzabuloe and part of St. Allen Parishes, until July, 1948, and Dr. V. E. Whitman, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., from 1st November, 1948, who is also Medical Officer of Health to the Boroughs of Falmouth, Penryn and Truro, and Assistant Medical Officer to the County Council of Cornwall.

Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. R. C. Harvey, Associate Royal Sanitary Institute, whole time.

Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. A. H. Bennett, M.S.I.A., whole time.

Temporary Housing Inspector, Mr. J. R. Eslick, until 21st July, 1948 and Mr. J. E. Harvey from 1st September, 1948.

Meat Inspector, Mr. G. T. Carter, is employed whole time at the Government Slaughterhouse.

The salaries of the first three officers are contributed to by the Ministry, under the Public Health Acts, or by Exchequer grants.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I beg to present a report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions in the Truro Rural District in 1948.

There were epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough in the latter part of the year but they were comparatively mild and no deaths resulted from either disease. Otherwise the health of the District remained good throughout the year.

In the Registrar General's figures for the District one death from Acute Poliomyelitis is included. This may seem strange in view of the fact that the table of diseases notified during the year shows no cases of this disease. The fact is that two boarders of Truro School became infected and both died. The home of one of them was in the Rural District and his death has been referred for statistical purposes to this District. This in my opinion is incorrect as the boy fell ill in Truro, the disease was notified in Truro, and he died in Truro.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	108,316 acres
Parishes	...	...	24
Population	..	...	27,140
No. of Inhabited Houses	...		9,250 approx.
Rateable Value		...	£82,294
Estimated product of 1d. rate			£336

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Live Births

Males	201	Females	192	Total	393
Crude Birth Rate, per 1,000 population, Truro Rural District					14.5
„ „ „ „ „ „				England & Wales	17.9
Of the 393 births 19 were illegitimate.					

### Still Births

Males	7	Females	3	Total	10
Still Birth Rate, per 1,000 births, Truro Rural District					25
„ „ „ „ „ „				England & Wales	23
Still Birth Rate, per 1,000 population, Truro Rural District					0.37
„ „ „ „ „ „				England & Wales	0.42

### Deaths

Males	166	Females	164	Total	330
Crude Death Rate, per 1,000 population Truro Rural District					12.2
„ „ „ „ „ „				England & Wales	10.8

### Deaths of Infants under one year

				Total	13
Infant Mortality rate, Truro Rural District					33
„ „ „ „ „ „				England & Wales	34

## ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATHS

					1947	1948
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	—	—
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	9	8
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	..	..	2	1
8	Syphilitic Diseases	..	...	...	—	—
9	Influenza	...	...	...	7	1
10	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
11	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	—	1
12	Acute Inf. Encephalitis	...	...	..	—	—
13	Cancer of Mouth and Throat (male) & Uterus (female)	5				4
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	13	11
15	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	9	10
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	30	27
17	Diabetes	..	...	...	6	1
18	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	..	...	...	43	34
19	Heart Disease	...	..	...	89	108
20	Other Diseases of Circulation	...	...	...	20	6
21	Bronchitis	...	...	...	18	10
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	12	13
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	..	...	13	11
24	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	2	2
25	Diarrhoea, under 2 years	...	...	...	1	—
26	Appendicitis	...	...	...	1	2
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	..	...	7	3
28	Nephritis	...	..	...	12	10
29	Puerperal and Post Abortion Sepsis	...	...	...	1	—
30	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	1	2
31	Premature Birth	...	...	...	3	3
32	Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, etc.				5	6
33	Suicide	...	...	...	5	1
34	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	1	3
35	Other Violent Causes	...	..	...	6	8
36	All other causes	...	...	...	62	44
					<hr/>	<hr/>
				All causes	384	330
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The figures indicate a population with a comparatively high proportion of adults in the higher age groups. This is supported by the comparatively low birth and high death rate.



## HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

So far as the public in the Rural District was concerned the transition on the appointed day made little or no difference. The services previously available continued to operate smoothly.

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following tables show what infectious diseases were notified during the year.

The measles epidemic began in November and continued well into 1949. There were few serious cases and no deaths.

The case of paratyphoid occurred in a young girl living at Perranporth. No connection between her and the one known carrier in the area could be traced but the offending germ belonged to exactly the same vi-phage type.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Measles		Poliomyelitis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	5	5	—	—	5	4	—	—
1-3	—	—	13	18	—	—	28	27	—	—
3-5	1	1	22	24	—	—	19	34	—	—
5-10	4	2	37	35	—	—	66	61	—	—
10-15	—	2	2	1	—	—	14	14	—	—
15-25	—	—	3	2	—	—	13	4	—	—
25+	—	1	—	3	—	—	5	2	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—
	5	6	82	88	—	—	154	117	—	—
Totals	11		170		—		301		—	

Age Group	Pneumonia		Dysentery		Erysipelas		Paratyphoid	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	3	1	1	3	—	—	—	1
5-15	3	2	2	1	—	—	—	—
15-45	7	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
45-65	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	—
65+	2	3	—	—	—	2	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15	10	5	4	1	3	—	1
Totals	25		9		4		1	

Ophthalmia  
Neonatorum  
M   F  
1   —

### Tuberculosis

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-- 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
25—35	4	1	—	—	2	2	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65+	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Totals	8	2	—	—	5	3	1	—
...	10		—		8		1	

### Immunisation Against Diphtheria

A total of 3273 children have been immunised in this Rural District since the campaign began. The work done during 1948 is shown in the following table.

#### Diphtheria Immunisation During 1948

Number of Children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation			Total Number of children who were given a secondary or reinforcing injection
Age at date of Final Injection.			
Under 5	5—14	Total	
322	46	368	105

V. E. WHITMAN,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

### **WATER SUPPLIES**

#### **(1) Perranzabuloe.**

The Supply to the Parish has been maintained during the year with the exception of an occasional week-end shortage to the houses at St. George's Terrace, during the peak summer months, when the Parish is full with visitors.

The emergency source at Mount Tunnel has been used to augment the supply.

The Air Ministry Plant at Blowing House was called upon to augment the supply.

The Council has now completed the preliminary negotiations to bring into a permanent scheme the sources at Mount Tunnel and Treamble Shaft. The latter source is being utilised for a supply to Cubert Village. This work should be put in hand early in the New Year.

The acquisition of the Blowing House site has apparently to be by way of a Compulsory Purchase Order, as the District Valuer cannot agree terms with the owner of the site.

During August some trouble was experienced with the Pumping Plant at Mount, and it was at this time that the Blowing House plant was brought into operation.

Samples of the water are regularly submitted for Bacteriological Reports.

The following are typical Reports :—

(a) Report No. 48/2228

#### **Water. Standpipe on Council's Main at Perranporth.**

Total No. Organisms growing at 37 deg. C. in 24 hrs :— 3 per ml.

„ „ „ „ 48 hrs :— 4 per ml.

„ „ „ 22 deg. C. in 72 hrs :— 1 per ml.

I.A.C. group :— 0 per 100 ml.

Typical B. coli :— 0 per 100 ml.

B. welchii :— Absent in 50 ml.

The results are satisfactory.



(b)	Report No. 48/6097		
	<b>Water. Standpipe, Perranporth Mains.</b>		
Total No. Organisms growing at 37 deg. C. in 24 hrs :—			per ml.
“ “ “ “		48 hrs :—	4 per ml.
“ “ “ “	22 deg. C. in 72 hrs :—		2 per ml.
Presumptive coliforms inc.	I.A.C. group :—		Nil per 100 ml.
	Typical B. coli :—		Nil per 100 ml.
	B. Welchii :—		

(2) **St. Agnes.**

A constant supply to the Parish was maintained during the year. The remarks, as to the lack of pressure on some days, set out in my last report, are still applicable.

This supply is increasingly being called upon for dairying and for other non-domestic purposes.

The Plant has been maintained in a satisfactory state — no breakdowns in same having occurred during the year.

The following are typical Reports of samples which are regularly taken of this supply :—

(a)	Report No. 48/1444		
	<b>Water. Standpipe of Main supply at St. Agnes.</b>		
Total No. Organisms growing at 37 deg. C. in 24 hrs :—			1 per ml.
“ “ “ “		48 hrs. :—	8 per ml.
“ “ “ “	22 deg. C. in 72 hrs :—		43 per ml.
	I.A.C. group :—		0 per 100 ml.
	Typical B. coli :—		0 per 100 ml.
	B. Welchii :—		0 per 100 ml.

The results are satisfactory.

(b)	Report No. 48/5831		
	<b>Water. St. Agnes Standpipe.</b>		
Total No. Organisms growing at 37 deg. C. in 24 hrs :—			per ml.
“ “ “ “		48 hrs :—	45 per ml.
“ “ “ “	22 deg. C. in 72 hrs :—		20 per ml.
Presumptive coliforms inc.	I.A.C. group :—		3 per 100 ml.
	Typical B. coli :—		Nil per 100 ml.
	B. Welchii		

The results are satisfactory.

### (3) **St. Mawes.**

The supply to St. Mawes has been satisfactory and constant. No complaints of shortage have been received from consumers.

The emergency source at Trethem was brought into service during many months of the year.

The Pumping Plant has been increased by the installation of a new Pump and Electric Motor capable of delivering 5,000 gallons of water per hour. This plant substitutes a Pumping Set installed by the Admiralty prior to "D" day during the last war.

Samples of the water are regularly submitted for Bacteriological Reports. The undermentioned are typical examples of the Reports :—

(a) Report No. 48/1391

#### **Water. Lloyd's Standpipe, St. Mawes.**

Total No. Organisms growing at 37 deg. C. in 24 hrs :— 2 per ml.

„ „ „ „ 48 hrs :— 10 per ml.

„ „ „ 22 deg. C. in 72 hrs :— 81 per ml.

I.A.C. group :— 1 per 100 ml.

Typical B. coli :— 1 per 100 ml.

C. Welchii :— 0 per 100 ml.

(b) Report No. 48/2439

#### **Water. Tap at Trethem, St. Mawes.**

Total No. Organisms growing at 37 deg. C. in 24 hrs :— 60 per ml.

„ „ „ „ 48 hrs :— 186 per ml.

„ „ „ 22 deg. C. in 72 hrs :— 162 per ml.

I.A.C. group :— 0 per 100 ml.

Typical B. coli :— 0 per 100 ml.

B. Welchii — Absent in 50 ml.

### (4) **Mylor.**

During the year the Council have laid a branchmain from Penscove to Flushing. This is on the Penryn-Mylor ex W.D. supply. The water being obtained from Falmouth Corporation in bulk.

This enabled a constant supply being available to consumers in Flushing as the new source of supply is connected to the existing distribution system in the village.

At Mylor Bridge several properties have been connected to the ex. W.D. main, including several Farms and Dairy premises.

**(5) Kea—Playing Place.**

The supply to this area has been satisfactorily maintained. Here water is supplied in bulk by the Truro Water Company.

**(6) Devoran.**

The privately owned undertaking is a constant source of complaint by residents in the village as to the quantity available during many months of the year also as to its purity.

**Chlorination of Water Supplies.**

The supplies of Perranzabuloe, St. Agnes and St. Mawes are chlorinated. That at Kea-Playing Place is treated by the Truro Water Company, from whom the water is obtained in bulk.

**Extension of Mains.**

A small extension of the Council's main at Goonhavern was carried out enabling 11 houses to be connected thereto.

**Schemes of Piped Water Supplies.**

The schemes prepared by the Council's Consultant for the provision of piped water supplies to many of the villages are still "on paper."

In my last report it was recorded that schemes for the supply of water to Newlyn East, Cubert, Ladock, Grampound Road, Probus, Tregoney, Veryan, Gerrans and Portscatho were well advanced — on paper — "and should be ready for actual work to start early next year."

Innumerable difficulties and obstacles have had to be surmounted. Lack of pipes and fittings, negotiations as to acquisition of Reservoir sites, etc., are examples of the frustration in inaugurating schemes, which are in other respects, ripe for execution.

**Water Supplies to Schools.**

Little or nothing has been done in the provision of adequate supplies of water to Schools.

Sanitation, as well as the School Canteen Service, is being held up on account of the lack of water.



The number of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains in respect of the undermentioned parishes is approximately as follows :—

Parish	Direct to Houses		By means of Standpipe	
	No. of Dwelling Houses	No. of the Population	No. of Dwelling Houses	No. of the Population
St. Agnes	1,100	3,300	200	580
St. Just-in-Roseland (St. Mawes)	340	1,100	—	—
Kea (Playing Place)	68	250	—	—
Mylor	220	650	90	285
Perranzabuloe	800	2,500	50	200

## Sewers and Sewage Disposal

No extension to the existing Sewers has been carried out during the year.

Consideration is being given to the Sewerage of several of the villages at present without sewage systems, and the Council's Consultant is preparing schemes for those villages where such schemes are long overdue.

Amongst the villages for which schemes are in course of preparation are Blackwater, Chacewater, Probus, Tregoney, Flushing, Mylor Bridge, Goonhavern, Tresillian, Holywell Bay, Cubert, Newlyn East, Kestle Mill, Mitchell, Bissick, Veryan, Portloe, St. Just Lane, Gerrans, Kea-Playing Place and Devoran.

## Scavenging—Collection of House Refuse

The collection of house refuse is regularly undertaken throughout the district. The villages and larger hamlets having a weekly collection whilst the smaller hamlets and isolated parts have a fortnightly collection.



Three Vehicles are employed in this service and a fourth Vehicle is on order.

Semi-controlled tipping is the method of disposal.

### **Conservancy**

The emptying of Closet Pails at Flushing is still being undertaken by the Council from premises where it is not possible for the householders to dispose of same in their garden.

### **Cesspool Emptying**

The Cesspool Emptier which the Council purchased the previous year has dealt with 256 Cesspools during the year. It is also regularly emptying the pits at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Chacewater. This is being done under contract with the Ministry of Works.

### **Salvage**

The sales of Waste Paper and Textiles during the year were as follows :—

Waste Paper	39 tons	18 cwts.	Value	£288 : 4 : 3
Textiles		14 cwts.	Value	£14 : 15 : 0

### **Public Conveniences**

The Public Conveniences at St. Agnes (2), Chapel Porth, St. Mawes and Portscatho, have been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

The Public Conveniences at Porthtowan which were demolished by enemy action during the war have been rebuilt, under "cost of works" payment by the War Damage Commission.

### **Housing**

During the year the Council completed 69 houses thus making the total erected by it 136 in the post war period.

Approval has been given for the erection of a further 48 houses by the Council, and the preliminaries, site selection, clearance of same by interested Ministries, and asking for Tenders for the erection of those which have been permitted to go to Tender, are well in hand.

Private enterprise Licences were granted by the Council to 7 individuals. Of these 2 were in course of erection at the end of the year.

A further 5 Licences were granted to persons building Agricultural Workers dwellings, of these 3 were in course of erection at the end of the year and 1 having been completed.

## Old Houses

I can only reiterate the Paragraph under this Heading in my last report. The only further comment I would make is that the position in regards to these old properties is becoming worse as time goes by.

The Housing Survey, of which a summary is given in the next Paragraph, will very forcefully confirm this.

## Rural Housing Survey

The following Table gives the result up to the end of the year, of the survey carried out in the district of houses of a Rateable Value of £16 and under.

PARISH	CATEGORIES					TOTALS
	1	2	3	4	5	
St. Agnes	27	63	122	472	226	910
St. Allen	1	14	19	60	11	105
Chacewater	9	4	104	196	145	458
St. Clements	—	5	8	33	13	59
Cubert	48	2	27	69	6	152
Cuby	—	7	7	7	1	22
St. Erme	2	20	7	52	15	96
Feock	1	30	70	258	48	407
Gerrans	4	25	33	91	30	183
Gwennap	1	8	23	173	56	261
St. Just-in-Roseland	1	18	26	98	30	173
Kea	—	2	28	143	85	258
Kenwyn	23	43	17	116	40	239
Ladock	3	26	49	99	35	212
St. Michael Penkevil	—	1	10	36	12	59
Mylor	2	12	30	237	69	350
Newlyn East	21	55	96	163	15	350
Perranarworthal	1	2	34	145	20	202
Perranzabuloe	46	41	65	273	67	492
Probus	3	16	43	105	56	223
Philleigh	—	1	3	14	11	29
Ruanlanihorne	—	—	2	17	11	30
Tregoney	5	—	17	93	39	154
Veryan	—	17	20	104	58	199
	198	412	860	3054	1099	5623

## Rodent Control

The Council employs a whole-time rodent operator.

## Food

The Ministry of Food Slaughter-house situate at Chacewater deals with meat supplied to the Truro City area as well as the Rural District,

A summarised report on the inspections of the Meat Inspector is as follows :—

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	1063	443	1014	3483	23
Number inspected	1063	443	1014	3483	23
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	11	48	24	125	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Not Recorded		6	647	1
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	9	56	1		
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Not Recorded				

The following foods, not dealt with at the Slaughterhouse were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

- 6 x 1 lb. tins of Meat & Veg.
- 8 x 11 oz. tins of Mandarin Oranges.
- 2 x 29 oz. tins of Fruit.
- 6 x 15 oz. tins of Pork Sausage.
- 4 doz. tins of Beetroot.
- 3½ doz. 28 oz. tins of Tomato Juice.
- 90 lb. Beef (Imported fore-quarter).

During the year 61 food preparing premises and 55 Dairy Farms have been inspected and improvements requested to be carried out where found necessary.

The following premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 :—

Sausage Making Premises	...	2
Ice-Cream Premises	... ..	4

E. R. C. HARVEY,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.